

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A self-expanding stent for treating a bifurcated vessel having a main vessel and a side branch vessel, comprising:

a cylindrical body having a central longitudinal axis, wherein such cylindrical body is defined by a plurality of rings spaced along such axis and wherein each ring is centered about such axis [aligned along a common longitudinal axis], adjacent rings being connected by links, and the cylindrical body having an unexpanded state and an expanded state;

the cylindrical body having a proximal section, a distal section, and a central section, each such section being defined by selected rings of said plurality of rings;

a number of first peaks in each of the rings of the central section differing from a number of first peaks in each of the rings of the proximal section and the distal section to thereby provide additional material for apposing a side branch vessel; and

the first peaks of the rings of the central section being configured to flare radially outwardly into an opening to the side branch vessel contacting the luminal wall of the side branch vessel and into at least a portion of the side branch vessel;

wherein the cylindrical body self-expands from the unexpanded state to the expanded state.

2. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein the rings of the proximal section have between four and twelve first peaks, the rings of the distal section have between four and twelve first peaks, and the rings of the central section have between five and fifteen first peaks.

3. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein the rings of the proximal section have seven first peaks, the rings of the distal section have six first peaks, and the rings of the central section have eight first peaks.

4. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein the number of first peaks in the ring(s) of the central section is greater than the number of first peaks in any of the rings in either the proximal section or the distal section.

5. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein the rings are connected by at least one links between adjacent rings.

6. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein the tubular body has a distal opening, a proximal opening, and a central opening.

7. (Original) The stent of claim 6, wherein the distal opening and the proximal opening are aligned along the stent longitudinal axis.

8. (Original) The stent of claim 7, wherein the central opening is radially offset relative to the alignment of the distal opening and the proximal opening.

9. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein the stent is formed from a self-expanding alloy.

10. (Original) The stent of claim 9, wherein the self-expanding alloy is nitinol.

11. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein the stent is coated with at least one layer of a drug.

12. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein the stent is coated with at least one layer of a therapeutic agent.

13. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the stent is coated with at least one layer of a therapeutic agent.

14. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the stent is coated with a primer material which adheres to the stent, the primer material being coated with at least one layer of a therapeutic agent or drug.

15. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein the stent is formed of a superelastic material that enables the central section first peaks to self-expand and flare radially outward to contact the luminal wall of the side branch vessel, and wherein the central section includes a diameter that is larger than a diameter of the proximal section.

16-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A stent for treating a bifurcated vessel having a main vessel and a side branch vessel, comprising:

a cylindrical body including a superelastic alloy and having a central longitudinal axis, wherein such cylindrical body is defined by a plurality of rings that are spaced along said axis and wherein each ring is centered about such axis [having a plurality of rings aligned along a common longitudinal axis], adjacent rings being connected by links, and the cylindrical body having an unexpanded state and an expanded state; and

the cylindrical body having a proximal section, a distal section, and a central section, each such section being formed by selected rings of said plurality of rings, wherein an opening is defined between said central section and said distal section, wherein the central section has a number of first peaks in each ring differing from a number of first peaks in each ring of the proximal section and the distal section to thereby provide additional material for apposing a side branch vessel.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38, wherein the central section first peaks being configured to flare radially outwardly into an opening to the side branch vessel and into at least a portion of the side branch vessel.

41. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38, wherein the cylindrical body self-expands from the unexpanded state to the expanded state.

42. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38, wherein the cylindrical body is formed from a single hypotube.